

- Group II. Claims 1-2 and 8-18, drawn to compounds of formula I, wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together form a ring, corresponding composition and method of use, classified in class 504/544, subclass various; and
- Group III. Claims 1-2, 6-7 and 11-18, drawn to compounds of formula I wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  together form a ring, corresponding composition and method of use, classified in class 546, subclass various.

Responsive to this restriction requirement, Applicants elect, with traverse, the invention defined by Group III.

This election is traversed on the basis that the search and examination of the entire application does not pose a serious burden on the USPTO. See, for example, MPEP § 803. Specifically, Applicants submit that any search conducted for the compounds of Group III would invariably involve evaluation and consideration of generic claims covering the compounds of Groups I and II in order to assess the patentability of the Group III compounds. As such, no serious burden is imposed on the Examiner in conducting a search and examination of all three groups.

In view of the above, withdrawal of this restriction requirement is requested.

Early examination of this application on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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